

Justice. The bill does not fund my requested \$13 million increase for the Civil Rights Division, including increases for law enforcement actions related to hate crimes, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and fair housing and lending. I ask the Congress to restore requested funds for these law enforcement enhancements.

The bill contains adequate funding for the decennial census, but I oppose language that could inhibit the Census Bureau's ability to actually conduct the census. The bill would require the Census Bureau to obtain approval from certain committees if it chooses to shift funds among eight functions or frameworks. This approval process would impose an unnecessary and potentially time-consuming constraint on the management of the decennial census. It is imperative that we move forward on the census; this legislation could impede it.

The United States has recently entered into the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Agreement. The agreement ends years of contention between the U.S. and Canada regarding expired fishing harvest restrictions and provides for improved fisheries management. This bill includes extraneous legislative riders that would hinder the implementation of that important Agreement. These riders would prohibit the application of the Endangered Species Act to Alaskan salmon fisheries and would change the voting structure of the Pacific Salmon Commission, the decision-making body established by the Agreement. In essence, the voting structure rider would prevent the Federal Government from negotiating agreements that balance the interests of all States. In addition to the riders, the bill provides only \$10 million of the \$60 million requested to implement the Salmon Agreement. Similarly, funding for the Salmon Recovery Fund falls far short of that needed to work cooperatively with the States of Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska and with Treaty Tribes to help them mount effective State-based plans to restore Pacific coastal salmon runs. These shortfalls together would severely inhibit our ability to recover this important species.

In addition, the enrolled bill does not provide my request for a number of other environmental programs, including my Lands Legacy Initiative, Endangered Species Act activities, the Clean Water action Plan, and the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment program. The additional funds required to bring these programs to my requested levels are small compared to the benefits they provide to our natural resources.

The bill does not include \$100 million in new funding for the Drug Intervention Program, which would have provided critical assistance to State and local governments developing and implementing comprehensive systems for drug testing, drug treatment, and graduated sanctions for drug offenders.

These resources are critical to reducing drug use in America.

The bill does not provide additional requested funding to the Justice Department for tobacco litigation. Smoking-related health expenses cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year through Medicare, veterans' and military health, and other Federal health programs. The Department of Justice needs the \$20 million I requested to represent the interests of the taxpayers, who should not have to bear the responsibility for these staggering costs.

This bill would also hurt our Nation's small businesses. The level provided for the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) operating expenses would inhibit my Administration's ability to provide service to the Nation's 24 million small businesses. The bill also fails to provide sufficient funds for the Disaster Loan program within the SBA. Without additional funding, the SBA will not be able to respond adequately to the needs arising from Hurricane Floyd and other natural disasters. In addition, the bill does not include funds for my New Markets Initiative to invest in targeted rural and urban areas.

The bill fails to include a proposed provision to clarify current law and protect taxpayer interests in the telecommunications spectrum auction process. Currently, \$5.6 billion of bid-for-spectrum is tied up in bankruptcy court, with a very real risk that spectrum licensees will be able to retain spectrum at a fraction of its real market value. The requested provision would maintain the integrity of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) auction process while also ensuring speedy deployment of new telecommunications services. The bill would also deny funds needed by the FCC for investments in technology to better serve the communications industry. Also, the bill does not provide sufficient funds for the continued operations of the FCC. The Commission requires additional funds to invest in technology to serve the communications industry more effectively.

In conference action, the rider was added that would amend the recently-enacted Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act to expand the prohibition of discrimination against individuals who refuse to "prescribe" contraceptives to individuals who "otherwise provide for" contraceptives (all nonphysician providers) in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. As an example, this language could allow pharmacists to refuse to dispense contraceptive prescriptions. This action violated jurisdictional concerns and is also unacceptable policy.

The bill underfunds a number of high-priority programs within the Department of Commerce. My Administration sought an additional \$9 million to help public broadcasters meet the Federal deadline to establish digital broadcasting capability by May 1, 2003.

The bill would provide less than half of last year's funding level for the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office. The bill also fails to fund the Department's other programs to protect critical information and communications infrastructures. The Congress must restore these funds if the Department is to continue performing its important and emerging role in coordinating activities that support our economic and national security.

The bill does not include any funds to reimburse Guam and other territories for the costs of detaining and repatriating smuggled Chinese aliens. These entities deserve our support for assisting in this interdiction effort.

I look forward to working with the Congress to craft an appropriations bill that I can support, and to passage of one that will facilitate our shared objectives.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 25, 1999.

□ 1730

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDI). The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and the message and bill will be printed as a House document.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the message, together with the accompanying bill, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1475

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 1475.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, October 26, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1404 of Public Law 99-661 (20 U.S.C. 4703), I hereby appoint the following individual to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: Mr. Owen B. Pickett, Virginia.

Yours Very Truly,
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE ACT OF 1999—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-149)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Rules, and the Committee on the Budget, and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith for your immediate consideration a legislative proposal entitled the "Strengthen Social Security and Medicare Act of 1999."

The Social Security system is one of the cornerstones of American national policy and together with the additional protections afforded by the Medicare system, has helped provide retirement security for millions of Americans over the last 60 years. However, the long-term solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds is not guaranteed. The Social Security trust fund is currently expected to become insolvent starting in 2034 as the number of retired workers doubles. The Medicare system also faces significant financial shortfalls, with the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund projected to become exhausted in 2015. We need to take additional steps to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for future generations of Americans.

In addition to preserving Social Security and Medicare, the Congress and the President have a responsibility to future generations to reduce the debt held by the public. Paying down the debt will produce substantial interest savings, and this legislation proposes to devote these entirely to Social Security after 2010. At the same time, by contributing to the growth of the overall economy debt reduction will improve the Government's ability to fulfill its responsibilities and to face future challenges, including preserving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

The enclosed bill would help achieve these goals by devoting the entire Social Security surpluses to debt reduction, extending the solvency of Social Security to 2050, protecting Social Security and Medicare funds in the budget process, reserving one-third of the non-Social Security surplus to strengthen and modernize Medicare, and paying down the debt by 2015. It is clear and straightforward legislation that would strengthen and preserve Social Security and Medicare for our children and grandchildren. The bill would:

- Extend the life of Social Security from 2034 to 2050 by reinvesting the interest savings from the debt reduction resulting from Social Security surpluses.
- Establish a Medicare surplus reserve equal to one-third of any on-budget surplus for the total of the

period of fiscal years 2000 through 2009 to strengthen and modernize Medicare.

- Add a further protection for Social Security and Medicare by extending the budget enforcement rules that have provided the foundation for our fiscal discipline, including the discretionary caps and pay-as-you-go budget rules.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 26, 1999.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

CONGRESS IS TRYING TO STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Kentucky (Mrs. NORTHUP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is committed to restoring the faith and opportunity into our government system.

For years, Congress after Congress has dipped into the social security trust fund to pay for new programs with little accountability of how funds were to be used and an empty promise to pay it back. The Congresses of yesterday broke trust with the American people, and now all generations are suffering.

Mr. Speaker, it is enshrined forever in the three opening words of the living document that we swear our allegiance to, our Constitution. Our Founders had the great and good sense to use the words "We, the people." The people is why Congress is fighting so hard to stop the raid on social security.

It is not about which party is in control, who kept their promises, and who broke theirs. It is about having a social security system for the people when they need it, our parents and grandparents who need it now and in the future. It is about maintaining the system so that our children may be pro-

tected, and it is about the price our children must pay to get the same benefits as their descendants did. It is about drawing the line on new Federal spending now, so that our children do not have to continue to fund this never-ending stream of new programs being requested by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress is very much about the people. We are listening to the conversations around dinner tables, in bingo halls, and in the grocery store parking lots. This is why this House has restored the faith by having every penny in the social security surplus to provide the retirement system for working Americans. It is the common sense of the American people which tells us to stop the raid on social security.

This Congress is using common sense, and will continue the commitment to social security and the people of this Nation. Our only hope is that this administration will stop calling for more spending and make this commitment, as well. We, the people, will prevail again.

ON THE PASSING OF JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES, SENIOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a man that really has made a difference in this Nation, James Alexander Forbes, Senior, a minister who passed away just recently. The funeral was yesterday.

He had eight children. Of course, he educated all of his eight children. They received at least a master's degree, and four of the eight children have doctor's degrees. He did this at the same time he was in school himself. He went to school with his three children that were in college, and he was in college right along with them. Of course, it shows us his commitment to education. He was not able to start out early in life, so therefore he felt it was important to get an education and to encourage his children, as well. He was a man who truly pulled himself up by his bootstraps.

When we look at his family in terms of what the children were able to accomplish, we look at the pastor of Riverside Church, Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Junior, one of the children, of course, and then we have David Forbes, who is one of the outstanding ministers in the State of North Carolina, and then, of course, we have another daughter that is a lawyer here and working in HUD, and then we have several that are in education, and another son that is a psychiatrist practicing in Richmond, Virginia, it goes to show us in terms of the fact that if we are committed, the kind of things we can do. The Forbes family has demonstrated that in a very eloquent fashion.

I also think about how he touched lives. When we talk to people who walk